

Genre	Build Background	Access Content	Extend Language
Realistic Fiction	• Oceans • Natural Resources • Protecting the Environment	• Captions • Sign • List	• The Prefix *un-*

Scott Foresman Reading Street 4.3.5

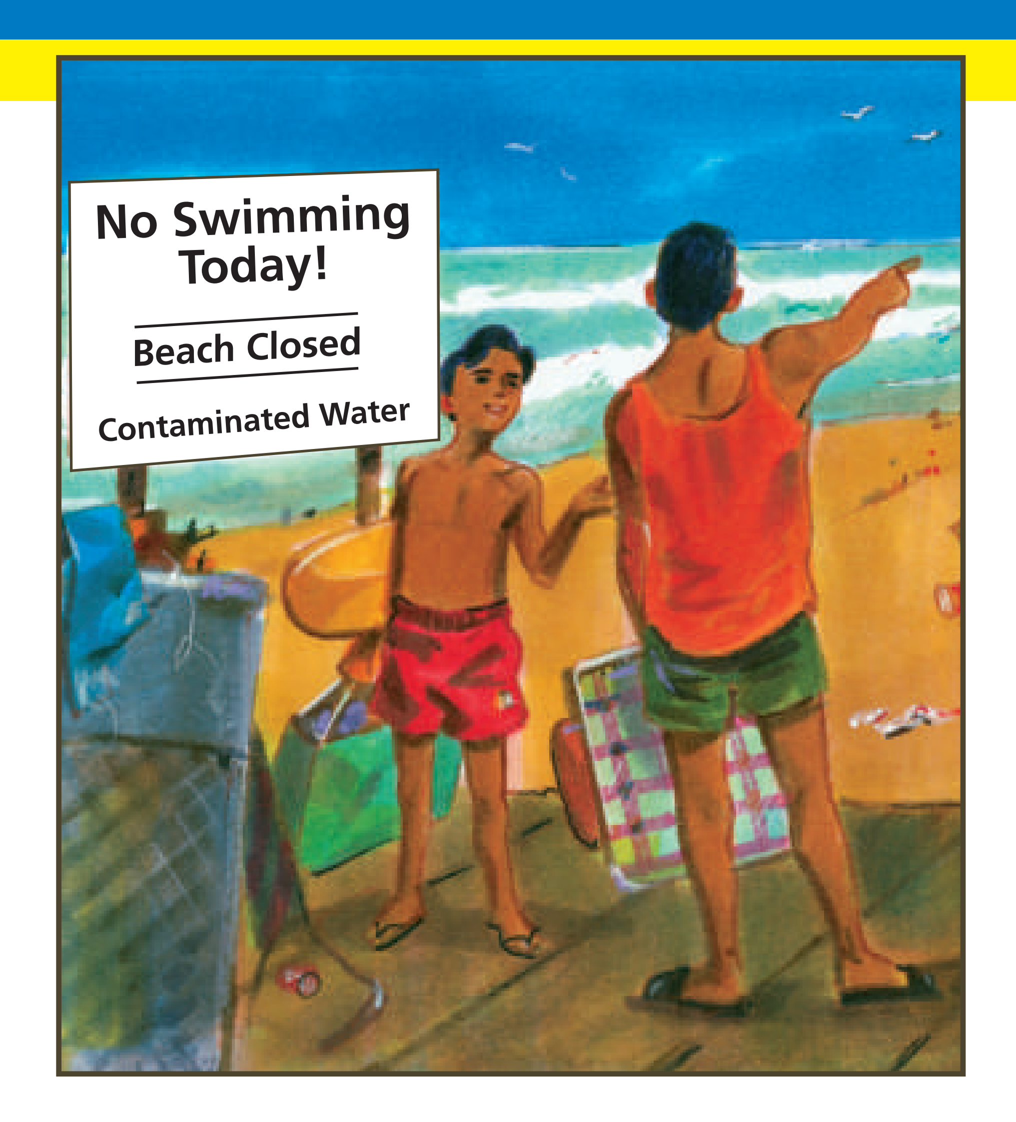


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No Swimming Today!

by José Fernando Colón



Illustrated by Tom McKee



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Sunday is the day that Marcos and his family do fun things together. Last Sunday, they went to the beach.

Marcos loves the ocean. He loves to swim! He loves to run barefoot in the sand and chase the seagulls. He loves to smell the fragrant sea air and listen to the waves crash against the rocks.

When they arrived at the beach, Marcos's father saw a big sign. It said: "No Swimming Today! Beach Closed!" Under the sign, in small letters, he read: *"Contaminated Water."*

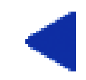
"Oh, no!" shouted Marcos. "How can they close a beach?"

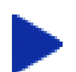
"Well, Marcos," said Father, "if the water is contaminated, then it isn't safe for swimming."

"What does *contaminated* mean, Papá?"

"It means that there's garbage or unsafe chemicals in the water. It's a very big problem in the world today. Keeping the oceans clean is very important for people and for animals. Why don't you ask your teacher to help you learn about clean oceans tomorrow?"

"I will, Papá," Marcos said.







The next morning in class, Marcos shared his experience at the beach. "My family and I went to the beach yesterday, and it was closed! The water was contaminated!"

"How did the ocean get so dirty that they had to close the beach?" Ana asked.

"How can we open it again?" asked Pete.

"Well, boys and girls," said Mrs. Espinosa, "Those are very good questions. I think Marcos has given us a perfect topic for this month's report project: Ocean Pollution. Our wondrous oceans are becoming polluted, or dirty."



For two days, groups of students worked on their reports. Finally, it was Oral Report Day.

Garbage

by Marcos, Ana, and Pete

Garbage is one cause of ocean pollution. Garbage can hurt sea animals and fish. Glass bottles, bottle tops, spray cans, old tires, and shoes can trap animals or hurt them. Fish can get trapped in old fishing nets left in the ocean.

All the oceans are connected to each other. If garbage is dumped into one, it can easily travel to any other ocean in the world!



Fishing nets can kill sea creatures.



A water treatment plant



Sewage

by Juan, Tania, and Paul

When people flush the toilet, wash the dishes, or run the garbage disposal, the wastewater flows through pipes in their homes. This dirty water, or sewage, flows into the underground pipes of the sewer system. Then the sewage moves toward a body of water.

Sometimes the sewage is treated, or cleaned. But some sewage is not treated. When it flows into an ocean, the untreated sewage pollutes the water.



The *Prestige* created a 30-mile-long oil spill off the coast of Spain when it crashed in November 2002.



Oil Spills

by Leroy, Jenny, and Maria

Oil spills are a major cause of ocean pollution. Big ships called oil tankers carry oil supplies from one place to another. Sometimes they leak oil or crash into something at sea. They can spill oil into the ocean. Tankers spill millions of gallons of oil into the oceans every year.

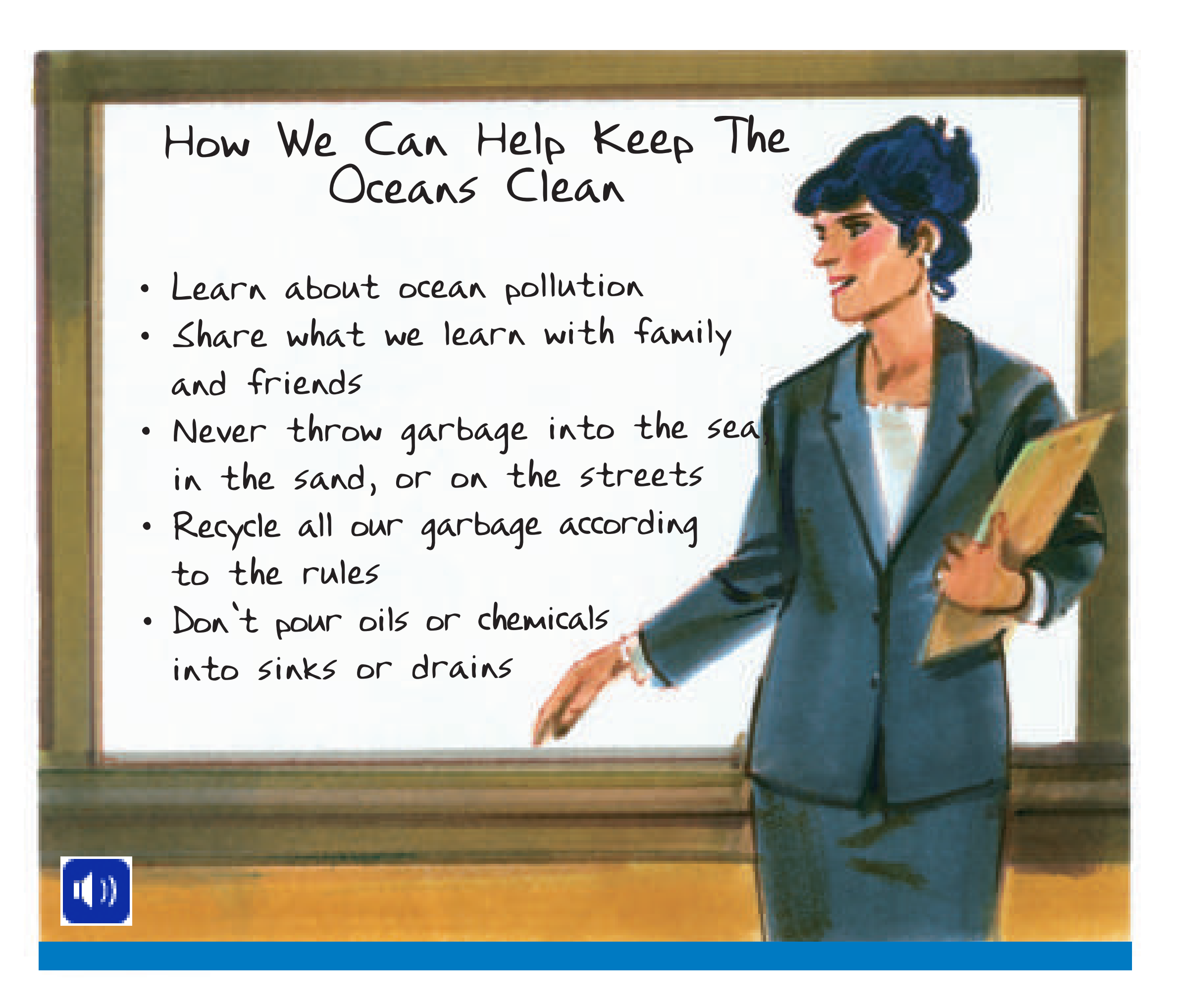
A great number of fish, sea otters, seals, penguins and other birds, and other animals die from the effects of oil.





“Now I understand why they have to close the beach if the water is polluted,” said Marcos.

Mrs. Espinosa, his teacher, asked the students to suggest ways to keep the oceans clean. This is what they sugested:





Can you think of other ways to keep our oceans clean and safe?



Talk About It

1. Name and describe three things that can cause ocean pollution.
2. How can polluted waters harm animals, fish, or people?

Write About It

3. On a separate sheet of paper, write about water pollution you have seen. Tell what kind of pollution it was and where it came from. Tell how this kind of pollution can be stopped.

Extend Language

The prefix *un-* means “not.” It makes new words that have the opposite meaning. For example: *unsafe* means “not safe.” What do these words mean?

unclear unlike unclean

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